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Remarks:

The examiner has stated that the remaining claims (16, 18, 20, 22, and 26) are allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant considers this application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Kevin D. McCarthy, Reg. No. 35,278

HODGSON RUSS LLP One M & T Plaza, Suite 2000 Buffalo, New York 14203-2391 August 22, 2002